CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for communicating in a wireless network having a plurality of terminals, the method comprising:

receiving a message that contains addressing information corresponding to one of the plurality of terminals; and

electronically steering a beam of an antenna in response to the addressing information.

2. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

performing one of a plurality of modulation schemes based upon the addressing information; and

coding the message based upon the addressing information.

3. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether a queue among a plurality of queues is available;

selectively storing the received message in the queue based upon the determining step; and

selecting the queue for transmission of the stored message based upon at least one of a timer value corresponding to a delay parameter, and a timeplan.

4. A method according to Claim 3, wherein the message is stored based upon the addressing information.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the message has a format that conforms with a prescribed communications protocol that includes at least one of Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), Internet Protocol (IP), Ethernet, and Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN).

6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the message in the receiving step includes a prepended tag that specifies information for directing the beam.

7. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether a delay value associated with the received message exceeds a predetermined threshold corresponding to a service level agreement (SLA); and

transmitting the message based on the determining step.

8. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

further receiving another message; and

grouping the messages for transmission if the messages share common addressing information.

9. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting the message to the one terminal over a point-to-multipoint communications channel.

10. An apparatus for communicating in a wireless network, the apparatus comprising:

an interface configured to receive a message that contains addressing information corresponding to a terminal within the wireless network;

an antenna having a beam and being configured to transmit the message; and

logic configured to electronically steer the beam of the antenna in response to the addressing information.

11. An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the logic selects one of a plurality of modulation schemes based upon the addressing information and one of a plurality of coding schemes based upon the addressing information.

12. An apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising:

a plurality of queues coupled to the interface, wherein the logic is configured to determine whether one of the plurality of queues is available, the one queue selectively storing the received message based upon the availability, the one queue being selected for transmission of the stored message based upon at least one of a timer value corresponding to a delay parameter, and a timeplan.

13. An apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the message is stored based upon the addressing information.

14. An apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising:

a switching engine coupled to the interface and configured to route the message, wherein the message has a format that conforms with a prescribed communications protocol that includes at least one of Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), Internet Protocol (IP), Ethernet, and Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN)..

15. An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the received message includes a prepended tag that specifies information for directing the beam.

16. An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the received message is transmitted based upon determining whether a delay value associated with the received message exceeds a predetermined threshold corresponding to a service level agreement (SLA).

17. An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the interface receives another message, the messages being grouped for transmission if the messages share common addressing information.

18. An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the message is transmitted to the terminal over a point-to-multipoint communications channel.

19. An apparatus for communicating in a wireless network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a message that contains addressing information corresponding to a terminal within the wireless network; and

means for electronically steering a beam of an antenna in response to the addressing information.

20. An apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising:

means for performing one of a plurality of modulation schemes based upon the addressing information; and

means for coding the message based upon the addressing information.

21. An apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising:

means for determining whether a queue among a plurality of queues is available;

means for selectively storing the received message in the queue based upon the determination of the availability; and

means for selecting the queue for transmission of the stored message based upon at least one of a timer value corresponding to a delay parameter, and a timeplan.

22. An apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein the message is stored based upon the addressing information.

23. An apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the message has a format that conforms with a prescribed communications protocol that includes at least one of Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), Internet Protocol (IP), Ethernet, and Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN).

24. An apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the received message includes a prepended tag that specifies information for directing the beam.

25. An apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising:

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means for determining whether a delay value associated with the received message exceeds a predetermined threshold corresponding to a service level agreement (SLA), wherein the message is transmitted based on the determined delay value.

26. An apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the receiving means receives another message, the apparatus further comprising:

means for grouping the messages for transmission if the messages share common addressing information.

27. An apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising:

means for transmitting the message to the one terminal over a point-to-multipoint communications channel.

28. A radio communications system comprising:

a terminal configured to receive a message from a host, the message containing addressing information corresponding to another terminal, the terminal including an antenna having a beam that is electronically steered in response to the addressing information.

29. A system according to Claim 28, wherein the terminal transmits the message to the other terminal using one of a plurality of modulation schemes based upon the addressing information and one of a plurality of coding schemes based upon the addressing information.

30. A system according to Claim 28, wherein the terminal further comprises:

a plurality of queues; and

logic coupled to the plurality of queues and configured to determine whether one of the plurality of queues is available, the one queue selectively storing the received message based upon the availability, the one queue being selected for transmission of the stored message based upon at least one of a timer value corresponding to a delay parameter, and a timeplan..

31. A system according to Claim 30, wherein the message is stored in the queue based upon the addressing information.

32. A system according to Claim 28, wherein the terminal further includes a switching engine configured to route the message to the other terminal, wherein the message has a format that conforms with a prescribed communications protocol that includes at least one of Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), Internet Protocol (IP), Ethernet, and Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN).

33. A system according to Claim 28, wherein the received message includes a prepended tag that specifies information for directing the beam.

34. An apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein the received message is transmitted based upon determining whether a delay value associated with the received message exceeds a predetermined threshold corresponding to a service level agreement (SLA).

35. A system according to Claim 28, wherein the terminal receives another message, the messages being grouped for transmission if the messages share common addressing information.

36. A system according to Claim 28, wherein the message is transmitted to the other terminal over a point-to-multipoint communications channel.

37. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for communicating in a wireless network having a plurality of terminals, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

examining a message that contains addressing information corresponding to one of the plurality of terminals; and

initiating electronic steering of a beam of an antenna in response to the addressing information.

38. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 37, wherein the one or more processors further perform the steps of:

selecting one of a plurality of modulation schemes based upon the addressing information; and

selecting one of a plurality of coding schemes based upon the addressing information.

39. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 37, wherein the one or more processors further perform the steps of:

determining whether a queue among a plurality of queues is available;

selectively storing the message in the queue based upon the determining step; and

selecting the queue for transmission of the stored message based upon at least one of a timer value corresponding to a delay parameter, and a timeplan.

40. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 39, wherein the message is stored based upon the addressing information.

41. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 37, wherein the message has a format that conforms with a prescribed communications protocol that includes at least one of Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), Internet Protocol (IP), Ethernet, and Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN).

42. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 37, wherein the message in the examining step includes a prepended tag that specifies information for directing the beam.

43. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 37, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of:

determining whether a delay value associated with the message exceeds a predetermined threshold corresponding to a service level agreement (SLA), wherein the message is transmitted based on the determined delay value.

44. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 37, wherein the one or more processors further perform the steps of:

examining another message; and

grouping the messages for transmission if the messages share common addressing information.

45. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 37, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of:

initiating transmission of the message to the one terminal over a point-to-multipoint communications channel.